

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00211 221410Z

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ACTION CU-03

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 0211

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, HU

SUBJ: GRANT-IN-AID PROPOSAL: SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL MISSION

REF: STATE 011449, STATE 008403.

1. WE APPROVE GRANT-IN-AID PROPOSAL AND WILL BE HAPPY TO FACILITATE EXPLORATORY MISSION IN HUNGARY.

2. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH WE SUPPORT SISTER CITIES PROJECTS IN PRINCIPLE, WE FIND CU'S CONSIDERATION OF SUCH PROPOSALS COMING AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME SURPRISING. WE HAVE RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT CU IS CONSIDERING SIZEABLE CUTS IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY BUDGETS, INCLUDING HUNGARY'S. OUR BUDGET IS ALREADY SMALL AND ANY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION WOULD NECESSITATE POSTPONING OR EVEN ABANDONING PRIORITY CPP PROJECTS ALREADY COMMITTED TO THE HUNGARIANS. ONE SUCH COMMITMENT IS THE INDIVIDUAL IV PROGRAM. THE HUNGARIAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL RELATIONS HAS JUST REITERATED ITS INTENTION TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES AND HAS PROMISED SIX NAMES QUOTE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE UNQUOTE. WHILE WE APPRECIATE THE GORDIAN TASK FACING CU IN TRYING TO ALLOCATE SCARCE FUNDS IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY IN TERMS OF PROMOTING OUR PRESENT OBJECTIVES, WE RANK THE PROJECTS PROPOSED IN OUR CPP HIGHER THAN THE SISTER CITIES MISSION.

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